I have associates who like myself are interested in presenting Christianity in a form more relevant to the modern world. One was kind enough to offer me his proposed book for review. I found this a bit daunting, first the draft was 670 pages which I hold far too long, & also like all academics he went into a huge amount of detail the average Joe & Jane does not want to know. I sent my review too him as an ~open letter~ yet as his work is not yet published I have removed his identity from my edited version below.

……………………………….

Sent as an OPEN LETTER in response to the work you were good enough to share with me.

­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_, having *skimmed* through your draft copy in full; firstly led me say I am both stunned & appreciative of the immensity of your efforts. It is obviously the work of someone who is deeply committed to this enterprise of serving God.

There are points on which I disagree or feel unable to support you. On page 15 you attest the universe is so perfectly made it can only have been intentionally created for the purpose of sustaining human life. I have read this argument before from multiple sources; I agree a case can be made for such, but such a case depends on people cherry-picking their facts while ignoring much greater bodies of evidence which attest mindless randomness.

My own position is that we uphold an intentional creation, because all human effort & striving would be pointless without it. In my view we do not need an intentional purpose driven creation for the universe to work, but we sure as hell need one for humans to work.

In the Genesis Creation story, it was formally recognized we were the only species in the whole biosphere, able to coordinate love plus abstract reasoning with the hands of a toolmaker. If we combined these attributes we could consciously develop both independently & intentionally to build something better. Therefore we concluded the whole of the creation was wrought for the express purpose of bringing forth us; & we were the apple of God’s eye. That was not unreasonable given the information as understood at the time; & an even better case could be made given we now know a universe 93 billion light years across, & ourselves the only loving & consciously intentional developed-builder species **so far proven to exist** within it.

Yet that is not a statement of why or even how the creation was bought into being; rather it is a statement of how we understand & & intend to manage our role within it.

I doubt that there was ever an idyllic deeply personal relationship between ourselves & our creator. Anthropology attests primal man had a deeper affinity with the natural world than you or I do; yet other than that life was brutal & primitive. More recent contact with primitive peoples affirms that.

I further hold an idyllic relationship would be boring & devoid of meaning. My life is constantly grappling with my own personal failings & the failings of others. I am deeply grateful for all my problems & challenges, it gives me a meaningful stimulating life constantly striving, where it is worthwhile to get out of bed in the morning.

Without an intentionally loving & purposeful creator all human effort at advance, self-determination & improvement **is futile**. It means some random force or accident will just extinguish us in the future & all our efforts & struggles are in vain.  *It means monkeys playing in the trees have a future equal to ourselves, without all the trauma, drama & trouble.*

The universe does not need an intentional, purposeful loving creator… WE DO! Not least as all human striving to be creditworthy & build a better world would be pointless without such.

Thus I disagree with many of your points; but I do support your mission. Not least as my own life of striving & challenges would be pointless unless something much greater than little me brings my efforts to fruition. I expect that applies to all of us.

\_\_\_\_\_ may I congratulate you on your writing style, it is smooth & all its parts flow together so it obviously comes from the heart. Good on you & I hope it bears some fruit given your efforts. But don’t mind me if I prefer to pursue the same ends through more prosaic means of my own.

I go so far as to **posit** in the end times when this universe collapses back in on itself; we will achieve oneness with the Genesis God by **becoming him**. Which means it could be we who preside over the next big bang to bring forth the next creation. Yet such is not handed to us on a plate but has to be worked for every inch of the way. Which means every time our powers & capacities increase the challenges we face increase on a pro-rata basis. Right now if we do not address what I choose to call our big four existential crises; the human experiment could too easily become the failed experiment.

At which point I would expect this biosphere, *sans humans,* to self-repair & bring forth another consciously intentionally developing species; *as after the cataclysmic collision with the big asteroid that extinguished the dinosaurs & much bio-diversity; the earth self-repaired to bring forth new species including us.* That means there will still be eternal life but we will not be an ongoing part of it; for myself I would rather stay the course so we are part of it.

Yet this does not require a benevolent God handing us everything on a plate, but a constant struggle & ever-increasing challenge as we advance. Every time we grow the head side of a coin the tail side grows pro-rata. Likewise every time we increase human powers the challenges increase pro-rata; every advance makes the challenges we face bigger & tougher not easier.

This is why I have no time for idyllic fairy tales, but am deeply grateful for the challenging, troubled but hugely rewarding life we do enjoy.

This is a big agenda & humans are puny, so we invented an all-powerful God as our mentor & ally. I make no apology for that, it shows how committed we are to succeed in our aspirations. I feel both of us are committed to this great enterprise; albeit in different ways.

Thus I close by repeating myself…

The universe does not need an intentional, purposeful loving creator… WE DO! Not least as all human striving to be creditworthy & build a better world would be pointless without such.

Thus I disagree with many of your points; but I do support your mission. Not least as my own life of striving & challenges would be pointless unless something much greater than little me brings my efforts to fruition. I expect that applies to all of us.

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**In closing this section** I suggest our positions are not as far apart as they appear. You yourself openly & clearly attest a contest for control between the Kingdom of God & the Kingdom of Satan. I attest the same contest for control between our higher natures & our base natures, both of which **indwell** or live in & through each & every one of us.

You also hold the spirit does not exist to suffer through our physical existence then escape to some happier hereafter, but exists to provide fulfillment to our physical existence. *Our positions are not too far apart.*

Our higher natures are the only reason why we are a higher species, in the sense of being able to aspire to things above & beyond the animal world**. Yet all of our biological & mechanical functions are wired into our base natures.** Humans are basically animals first; the ability to coordinate our capacity for abstract though with the hands of a toolmaker is an **add-on**.

This means our higher natures cannot be dispensed with as we would not strive to be a higher species if they were. Yet our base nature cannot be dispensed with either, as we would lose our ability to mechanically & biologically function if they were. The result is **an uneasy coexistence pact** & a continuous fight for control. We have to find a way to get them to work together, as neither can win at the expense of the other *& a house divided against itself cannot stand.*

………………………….

Lastly on pages 32-34 you hold the Church falsely reported the message of Christ to serve its own ends. To which I can only respond…are not you & I interpreting the Gospels to serve our own ends? At least in Christ we have a message to interpret, without him there would not be one, as for perfect interpretation we all have our human failings so there is not going to be one. Be grateful the word lends itself to so many adaptations, as that is why it succeeds.

I agree the terms & conditions of human existence have changed hugely in modernity; so the Bible needs be reinterpreted in a manner more relevant to our times. Yet that does not give me the basis to condemn those who interpreted the Bible, so people of past times could relate to it. Let’s face it if you & I rewrite for current audiences, our efforts too will be thrown out as a **period piece** in the future, when further human development requires it be reinterpreted in a manner relevant to the changed terms & conditions of human existence in future times.

My issue with condemning past Gospel interpretations & administrators is ~judge not less we ourselves be judged; *by the same standards we ourselves have set~*

On the rest of your works, I agree public presentation of the Bible has to be updated & while I disagree with some of your efforts at least you are trying. Yet if any of us who work in this field want to be treated charitably, we have to be charitable to others equally as fallible who went before us.

I am not prepared to offer much comment on the rest of your book, *I find it too long & have only skim read it*. I *also feel it is too focused on the ideal to be practical to implement.* I believe our differences are a product of differences in the base understandings each of us commence from.

Despite sharing a common mission our differences are many; firstly I find your title the advanced testament to be arrogantly assumptive of superiority to the common herd. Secondly to me both God & Satan, *our higher selves & our lower selves* actually exist & actively contest with each other to control us. Yet I. *& many others* can express that with elegant simplicity, I have little time for your overly extensive, convoluted & complicated conspiracy theories.

……………………..

Finally on your page 650 you make a statement with which I wholeheartedly agree…

The *un*holy Quran is one of the books which reveals the mind of Lucifer/Satan.

As one who holds **all religions are man-made** I believe higher developed concepts started manifesting themselves 12,000 years ago. Yet these early efforts were fragmented, localized & weak, so more base powers could largely ride roughshod over them. The Patriarchs gathered up all these early efforts then collated them into the common body of a monotheistic singular they were to call Y-H-W-H. This new God then became the champion of what we would today call a *higher set* of universal principles. They then advised the worlds, despots & delinquents; OK you are good at pushing around the small fry now come on round & try your hand on this big guy.

Muhammad was a socially alienated disaffected misfit with a grudge against humanity as a whole. If all Gods are man-made; so only as good or as bad as the people who bought them forth, Muhammad’s fatally flawed character defects were not a good start.

Muhammad found he could not prey on humanity all by himself, so needed a powerful ally. The Kabah was full of past Gods who were little more than petty punks each of whom had been top dog controlling small region or constituency in the past. As society developed they were too fragmented & small time, so were losing their influence. Muhammad gathered them up then collated them into a monotheistic singular he was to call Allah. It seems this Allah entity disliked humanity as much as Muhammad did, so they became united in common cause of repressing & exploiting humanity. Muhammad then turned to good & Godly people everywhere, OK so you can push small punks around but now I have bought forth this **primal supra-punk** that is after your guts.

I agree the *un*holy Quran drew its elements from the opposite end of the human spectrum than the Bible, so is definitely the word of our base natures which are often called Lucifer/Satan.

…………………………….

additional notes…

Your pages attest we need to throw out Satan & send him back to the emptiness from which he emerged.

My position is we can’t throw-out our base natures, which developed over eons in the animal kingdom in a manner which ensures all our biological & physically mechanical functions are hardwired into them. Throw-out our base natures we lose the ability to physically function; thus our base natures are continuously omnipresent living in & through us, **as a matter of practical necessity.** *This is why conspiracy theorists of all persuasions see the hand of Satan operating under every toadstool.*

The actual contest is which is most meet to be the master controlling humanity; our base natures or our higher natures?

………………….

On your list of Satanic works as given on page 650.

I agree the Quran & other works of Islamic origin qualifies as such for reasons I have given. Muhammad collated all our primal drivers into a monotheistic primal supra-punk he called Allah; then claimed him the pristine original God. *In this he was wrong as even primitive man has always aspired to better things,* but it was not until about 12,000 years ago that we started getting such together as a coherent developed force. Thus all Muhammad’s works originate from our primal base natures or Satan.

The other works you list I regard as the books of the various tribes & nations of Ishmael. Ishmael started to work towards the higher aspirations of the Biblical God but threw in the towel when the going got too hard. The result is a collection of **half-way houses**; they are not wholly Satanic but certainly fall short of Biblical Godliness. *In the body of Ishmael I include just about all the intermediate developer-builder faiths; Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Aztec religions, Daoism & most modern civil religions. All have some of the higher aspirations of the Biblical faiths, but also fall short in many areas.*

The Biblical faiths are the only ones that went the whole course to produce a loving Father mentor to the whole human family. One who is rooted in our higher natures & resolved to ensure we obtain control of our baser selves.

As I attest under Isaac & Ishmael tab on my Webb-site; under the **two Covenant’s** given in Genesis; we are charged with a duty of care to the tribes & nations of Isaac & a duty of consideration to the tribes & nations of Ishmael.

While the only duty we have towards Islam & its pristine throw-back Allah entity is to tell him he can go & get fucked.

It seems we agree in principle but disagree on some workings, but committed efforts like yours enrich and assist mine.

……………………………..

My theses holds reptiles appeared 300 million years ago, mammals 200 million years ago, birds 150 million years ago. All these species were biologically & mechanically functional; compliments of our base natures, aka one Mr. Satan.

This entity was pretty confident in his ability to operate working species; was accustomed to sole control & did not feel any need for power-sharing arrangements.

Then quite recently emerged Neanderthal man & Homo Sapiens; compact, dexterous *but vulnerable* big brained species able to coordinate capacity for higher abstract thought with the hands of a toolmaker. Now there was a new power player on the block, contesting our base natures for power & control.

At first it was not much of a contest, our base natures were strongly entrenched & self-confident so held as **normative**, our new higher natures lacked confidence so were inclined to be tentative.

Yet both Neanderthal & early man had non-normative higher expectations. These higher aspirations **lived in the dream-time** *of heaven above;* or were attributed to visitations by good-spirits, angels or good fairies. An imagery the Bible utilized, especially in its early periods.

Yet whilst early-man felt enriched by the dream-world of higher expectations; he did very little to actualize it or make it happen in this life. By comparison the Bible bought messengers from heaven; requiring humanity **get its act together**; to build a soundly resolutely organized society, one which could actualize heaven in this world & in this life.

It took a long time for this new species to get its act together in an organized coherent form, confident enough to make take-over bid. It took so long I ask if our base natures identified this new transplant *(higher consciousness)* as an invading alien & our auto immune systems at first tried to reject it. If so that would make the contest for control between God & Satan date from the very beginnings of our species. Unfortunately the skant skeletal remains of early man, do not lend themselves to such a pathological examination.

What is clear is after a period off building higher philosophies & theologies **in a piece-meal manner**, by 6,000 years ago *(the book of Genesis)* our higher natures had developed enough confidence in themselves to make a take-over bid for the control of humanity.

In the contest for power & control between God & Satan it has been game-on ever since; & it seems this contest could well last for all of human time.

\_\_\_\_\_ thank-you for giving me a preview of your intended book; which is appreciated by me.

. God bless you, while for myself I thank-you for your efforts.

Having responded with these 7 pages; I will now shut up & leave you to get on with your own life & mission in peace.

Ken Maynard. May 27, 2018.